

Division of Child and Family Services - Budget Cuts Impact Human Services

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Child and Family
Services

With a huge sigh, the legislative session ended Thursday night with what was by most accounts, the most unusual legislative session on record. The questions now remain, how will we deal with the cuts to the FY10 budget, and how will we finish out FY09? Both of which are going to test us in ways that we have not been tested for many years.

The very good news is that despite these challenges, the picture could have been much more bleak. I know that probably sounds like “silver lining” thinking, but for those of you who have watched the process, talk of an \$22 million cut to the Department of Human Services (\$8 million for DCFS) were at times, a very grim and real prospect. This is not to make light of the fact that we have had to make sacrifices. Many people have had their lives disrupted by these cuts, and all of us have felt the stress of these times.

In the weeks and months ahead we will all have opportunities to look carefully at the budgets, and we will be asked to balance cuts against the needs of our clients. The Administrative Team will be meeting with Region Directors and Budget Staff to continue working on plans that have already started. I will keep you up to date with periodic emails to let you know our progress. I ask of you that you continue the very fine work you do with children and families. Now more than ever, they need your steady assistance.